

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 8/25/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Nikki J. Schmidt 805/781-5496	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group in the amount of \$72,000 to provide federal lobbying services in FY 2015-16. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group to provide federal lobbying services for FY 2015-16.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) General Fund	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$72,000.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Guy Savage			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nikki J. Schmidt, Administrative Office

DATE: 8/25/2015

SUBJECT: Request to approve Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group in the amount of \$72,000 to provide federal lobbying services in FY 2015-16. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services with the Ferguson Group to provide federal lobbying services for FY 2015-16.

DISCUSSION

The County has contracted with the Ferguson Group (TFG) since October 2006. Since that time, TFG has assisted the County in matters pertaining to the federal government, including federal funding, legislative, regulatory, and other administrative issues of interest to the County.

The Board approved the County's CY (Calendar Year) 2014/FFY (Federal Fiscal Year) 2015 Federal Work Plan and Agenda in April of 2014. In July, Mike Miller, in preparation of developing the CY 2015/FFY 2016 Federal Agenda and Work Plan, met with Board members and staff. At the same time, he provided an update of activities currently undertaken on behalf of the County based on the approved CY 2014/FFY 2015 Federal Work Plan and Agenda.

TFG regularly interacts with federal agencies on behalf of the County, providing answers to County questions and concerns. For example, TFG helped the County secure meetings with key officials in Congress and letters from Members of the County's congressional delegation supporting the County's Water Basin study grant request. TFG also secured a meeting with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and his senior staff regarding the application. On June 30 the Bureau announced the project was awarded \$950,000 – one of only two awarded in 2015. This type of assistance will continue to be helpful to the County, especially as Congress and the Administration work through ongoing issues as noted above.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

Administrative Office and the Ferguson Group staff developed the terms of the amendment. County Counsel has reviewed the agreement and approved it as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

During FY 2015-16 budget hearings, the Board approved funding for federal lobbyist services at the cost of \$72,000 per year, including expenses.

RESULTS

Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services with TFG will continue federal lobbying efforts on benefit of San Luis Obispo County with the intention of obtaining federal assistance and revenues that would otherwise be more difficult to access. Additional revenues contribute to the County's goal of a safe, health, livable, well-governed, and prosperous community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services
2. July 21, 2015 update on Federal activities
3. July 21, 2015 update - Bills Pending in Congress related to water financing
4. July 21, 2015 update - Bills Pending in Congress related to western drought issues